

*** THE FUTURE ***

HASTINGS MODERN TRAMWAY

Our interest spreads itself to new ideas in trams and tramway systems. We were interested in, and assisted with the idea that Hastings Tramway Development Company had in the late 1990's, for a tramway along the seafront of Hastings Old Town. New trams would have been built, with some given a vintage look similar to the old trams for running along the sea front. Modern design trams which would run on metre gauge track would open up other areas of the town as it did in the past, creating a fast and economical service outstripping the use of many of the cars we have on the roads today. It would also be an added attraction for the town. This would create many new jobs locally in the construction and running of the tramway. Our aim is to help promote any ideas put forward and would like to see a new link between Hastings, St Leonards and Bexhill. The modern day tram could be an asset to a developing town such as Hastings and might just be one of the 'pearls' the town talks of. The idea for a tramway that can operate at different levels is something we consider necessary to avoid obstacles such as road crossings, or reduced access. This would give the tramway its faster link wherever it wished to operate, high or low the modern tram could do this giving the passenger all the modern comforts of travelling. Modern trams are expanding throughout the country, some already making further extensions and they have exceeded their expectations in the number of passengers carried.

HTC.03



A Future Image of Hastings Town Centre with a modern Tram. From a painting by Mike Turner.

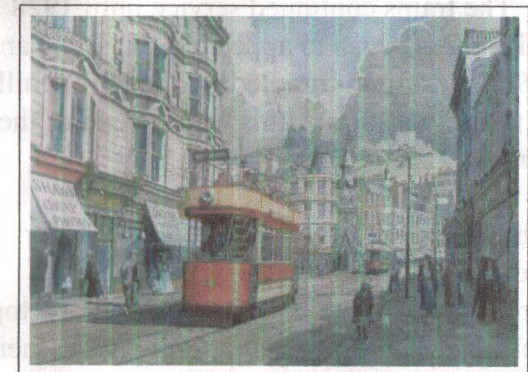


Tram No 56 at Queens Road Railway Bridge. From a painting by Mike Turner.

SEASIDE TRAMS

**WITH THE
HASTINGS TRAMWAYS
CLUB**

*** HASTINGS * ST LEONARDS * BEXHILL ***



Hastings Tram No 43 at Robertson Street/Memorial

PALACE PIER
ST. LEONARD'S
The BEST PLACE for YOU to ENJOY
BAND Plays Three Times Daily in Summer Season
WALKER SEATING Three Musical Sessions Daily
CONCERTS & THEATRICAL Performances Nightly
BALCONY LOUNGE and TEA ROOMS with Evand

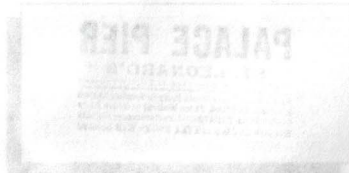
*** THE PAST ***

HASTINGS TRAMWAY COMPANY

The Tramway Company began operating tram services in 1905 from Hastings to St Leonards and later to Bexhill and further west to Cooden. The trams were of the four wheel open top type manufactured by Dick Kerr of Preston, Lancs. With open fronts the motormen (drivers) were exposed to all the elements. There were sixty five trams operating from two depots, one at Silverhill, St Leonards and the other off of Bexhill Road, St Leonards.

Electricity to power the tramcars was supplied by the company's own power station off of Parker Road, Hastings. The trams continued service until 1928 when trolleybuses began to appear on the scene and by early 1929 the last tram trundled into the Silverhill depot for the very last time, this was the end of the tramcar era for Hastings and Bexhill.

Most of the trams were then either broken up for scrap while others were sold for holiday homes after (Treatment) i.e., removing the platforms, stairs, top deck, truck, etc., leaving a basic shell - ending their days at places along the coastal areas such as Winchelsea Beach and Camber Sands and it was around here seventy years later that H.T.C. discovered and rescued the remains of Hastings tramcars 48/56.



*** THE PRESENT ***

HASTINGS TRAMWAYS CLUB

The Hastings Tramways Club (H.T.C.) was formed in 1992 to create an interest in the history of trams which formed a major part of the transport scene in those days.

HTC become involved with other tramway enthusiasts and societies and have held several exhibitions and shows since they began.

We would like to be able to run our own miniature tramway and some progress has been made so far. We have space to operate on a short length of track but will need more help to achieve our aim.

We have been successful in returning three ex Hastings tramcars back to Hastings, Nos 43, 48 & 56, although No 43 rescued by members of the Dover Transport Museum has now been dismantled and used for spares for the other two. At present both 48 and 56 tramcar bodies can be found on site of the Rother Valley Railway Site at Robertsbridge (2002). Even though we only have the basic bodies of each tram we hope to mock up the rest as and when we have enough funding to do so. Our income comes only from events or any donations given to us for which we are most grateful. I would especially like to thank the people who have helped us in various ways and those involved in transporting the trams from site to site over the past years.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to become a member of the Hastings Tramways Club and I agree to abide by the rules set out by the Club. I enclose the sum of £.....to cover my membership until the end of March 200..

Name:

Address:

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Tel:

Membership Fees

Adult £ 5.00

Couple £7.00

Junior under 16 £ 3.00

Half these fees if joining after 1st October plus the above, this will cover you for 18 months.

Cheques should be made payable to:

“Hastings Tramways Club” and sent to:

Mr D. Masters (H. T.C.)

Membership Secretary

14 Holmhurst Lane

St Leonards-on-sea

East Sussex TN37 7LW

Tel: 01424 752668